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3. From the chariot race
 - *a. Chariots streaming forth at the start—A. 5.144 f.; G. 1.512 ff.⁴³
 - b. Charioteers waving reins and bending to the lash—A. 5.146 f.
4. From rowing against the stream—G. 1.201 ff.
5. From a ship taking up ballast on a stormy sea—G. 4.195 f.
- B. From Human Experiences
 - *1. A man startled by a snake—A. 2.379 ff.
 2. The quieting of a mob by an influential man—A. 1.148 ff.⁴⁴
 3. Cowering in a retreat until a hail-storm passes—A. 10.803 ff.
 4. A traveller stained with dust—G. 4.96 ff.
 5. From subjective experiences
 - a. From dreams
 - (1) The unsubstantial character of dreams—A. 2.794, 6.702.
 - (2) Dreams mocking the senses—A. 10.642.
 - * (3) Dream of trying in vain to press on one's course—A. 12.908 ff.⁴⁵
 - †b. From phantoms—A. 10.641.
 - c. The joy of sailors on reaching port—G. 1.303 f.
- V. Similes Drawn from the Objects and Materials of Civilized Life
 - A. Of Military Life
 1. A shield—A. 3.637.
 - †2. An arrow—A. 5.242, 10.248, 12.856 ff.; G. 4.312 ff.
 3. A javelin—A. 10.248.
 4. The weight driven by a besieging engine—A. 11.616⁴⁶.
 5. The whizz of a stone from a besieging engine—A. 12.921 f.
 - B. Of Civil Life
 - *1. A top, spinning—A. 7.378 ff.⁴⁷
 2. A pier, falling—A. 9.710 ff.
 - *3. A statue of ivory, silver, or Parian marble, gilded—A. 1.592 f.
 4. A jewel set in gold—A. 10.134 f.
 5. Ivory framed in boxwood or Orician pine—A. 10.135 ff.
 - *6. A scepter, incapable of bearing foliage again—A. 12.206 ff.⁴⁸
7. Pitch, its stickiness—G. 2.250, 4.41⁴⁹.
8. Amber—G. 3.522.
9. Bird-lime—G. 4.41.
- VI. Similes Likening Human Beings to the Gods
 - A. To a God in General—A. 1.589.
 - B. To Specific Gods
 - †*1. To Diana, with a thousand Oreads in her train—A. 1.498 ff.
 - †2. To Apollo, his beauty and his gait—A. 4.143 ff.
 3. To Cybele—A. 6.784 ff.
 4. To Heracles, the distance he traversed—A. 6.801 ff.
 5. To Liber, the distance he traversed—A. 6.804 f.
 - *6. To Mars, giving rein to his steeds—A. 12.331 ff.
- VII. Similes Drawn from Mythical or Legendary Characters and Stories
 - A. From Harpalyce—A. 1.316 f.
 - †B. From a Thyiad, startled by emblems at Trietric festival—A. 4.301 ff.
 - C. From Pentheus, seeing the Furies, a double sun, etc.—A. 4.469 f.
 - D. From Orestes, fleeing from his mother, with Furies at the door—A. 4.471 ff.
 - E. From the Maze of the Labyrinth—A. 5.588 ff.
 - F. From Paris carrying off Helen—A. 7.363 f.
 - G. From two Centaurs, descending from a mountain peak—A. 7.674 ff.
 - H. From the Sea-goddesses Doto and Galatea—A. 9.102 f.
 - I. From Aegaeon—A. 10.565 ff.
 - J. From Orion, towering high in his stride over sea and land—A. 10.763 ff.
 - K. From the Amazons around Hippolyte or Penthesilea—A. 11.659 ff.
 - L. From the Cyclops, toiling at the forge—G. 4.170 ff.

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ELIZA G. WILKINS.

REVIEWS

Macrinus and Diadumenianus. By Henry Jewell Bassett. A Dissertation of the University of Michigan. Menasha, Wisconsin: George Banta Publishing Company (1920). Pp. 94.

Studies of historical problems in the period of the Roman Empire are now a favorite field for doctoral dissertations, probably because in papyri and inscriptions so much new material has been unearthed. And they are welcome, for a great deal of gathering and sifting still remains to be done. The University of Michigan dissertation here considered (its professorial source, if any, is not indicated) is of this group. Its particular field is not a very fertile one; but the subject

⁴³Compare Od. 13.81 ff.

⁴⁴Richard Heinze, in his *Virgil's Epische Technik*, 202, note, brings out the essentially Roman character of this simile, and compares it pertinently with Cicero, *Pro Cluentio* 130.

⁴⁵Compare Il. 22.199; also the simile in Lucretius 4.1097 ff., where a man dreams of trying in vain to satisfy his thirst.

⁴⁶Compare Lucretius 6.329.

⁴⁷Tyrrell, in his *Latin Poetry*, 141, says that this simile is "one of the few of which Virgil seems to have been the creator and not the borrower". But the spinning top is used in a simile in Il. 14.413. Heyne and Conington very properly remind us of Callimachus, *Ep.* 1.9 ff. in this connection.

⁴⁸Compare Il. 1.234 ff. While there is no simile in Homer, Vergil has imitated the passage very closely.

⁴⁹The blackness of pitch is used in a simile in Lucretius 6.257, as well as in Il. 4.277. This is the first simile in which its viscid quality is emphasized.

is covered, the sources discussed, and the new evidence presented.

An introductory chapter (5-9) reviews the inscriptions, coins, and papyri which mention Macrinus or his son. These are found in many parts of the Empire and in rather large numbers, considering the shortness of the reign. Perhaps *L'Année Epigraphique* 42 (1917-1918), if available, might have been given a place in the list for the sake of completeness.

The chapters that follow discuss the lives of the Emperor and his son, and the reign. To Macrinus had been left the unpleasant legacy of an unfinished Parthian war, which he settled, after some fighting, not very advantageously, though he was not badly defeated, as is sometimes stated.

Developing an argument first advanced by Goebler, Professor Bassett attempts at considerable length (38-48) to prove that Macrinus and his son made a trip to the Danube. The sole literary source for this view is found in a statement of Dio (78. 27.5) that 'the Dacians, after damaging parts of Dacia, held their hands in spite of a desire for further conquest'. Macrinus, it is argued, must have stopped them. The main line of evidence is found in coins and inscriptions. It is noticed that on and near routes from Syria to the Danube many cities struck coins in honor of the Emperor, but that this was not done very much elsewhere. Further, in the vicinity of Aquincum many mile stones of Macrinus are found, indicating the repairing of roads, evidently for the special purpose of his coming. To the reviewer the author's conclusions do not follow. One might ask, Why go to Aquincum to settle Dacian affairs? Again, if Macrinus won a victory, why no imperial salutation? But, over and above this, how was it possible for Macrinus to take a trip of over 2,000 miles, after the Parthian campaign was fought and settled, to arrange the Dacian affair, and still have time to spend the winter at Antioch?

Macrinus's attempt at legal reform is interesting. "He. . . determined to destroy all the rescripts of the emperors. . .". Evidently he feared that *constitutiones personales* would be used as *generales* in law-court pleas. That there was this danger is indicated by the careful distinction made in Justinian's Institutes between the two forms of constitutions. Macrinus had been the successor of the great jurist Papinian in the office of *praefectus praetorio* during the rule of Caracalla, and as such had been of course in close touch with problems of law. What his relations with Papinian were, and how much legislation in Caracalla's reign, for example the granting of citizenship to all free provincials, owed to him are interesting points for whose study unfortunately there is little evidence.

Another enlightening topic is that of Macrinus's appointments to office (56-58). Here Dio, a Senator and contemporary, is invaluable. Dio's criticism is that they were made as rewards for personal services rather than as rewards of merit. How modern!

At the end there is a discussion of the literary sources, Greek (78-82) and Latin (83-90), without any intention of reaching new conclusions on their value. There are also a List of Inscriptions Cited (92) and a List of Coins Used (93-94).

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G. A. HARRER.

A History of the Art of Writing. By William A. Mason. New York: The Macmillan Company (1920). Pp. 502.

This book undertakes to cover in a historic survey the entire subject of "writing" in the broadest sense. It includes, for instance, a section on the development of printing, though this is treated only summarily. The chapter headings include:

Evidences of Ideography in Our Written Language; Primitive Picture Writing; Picture Writing of the North American Indians; Picture Writing of the Ancient Mexicans; Hieroglyphic Writing of the South Sea Islanders; Chinese Ideographic Writing; Hieroglyphic Writing of the Ancient Egyptians; Babylonian and Assyrian Cuneiform Writing; The Hieroglyphic System of Writing of the Ancient Hittites; The Alphabetic Writing of the Phoenicians; Pre-Phoenician Syllabaries and Mediterranean Script; The Greek Alphabet; The Roman Alphabet; Writing in the Middle Ages; European Alphabets Derived from the Greek; The Age of Printing.

A large order! It would be ungracious not to recognize at the outset the courage and the industry of the undertaking. It is not, of course, the first book of its kind. But it has at least two advantages over such predecessors as the books of Isaac Taylor and Edward Clodd. First, it is more modern, and its author has been able to make use of the countless books and monographs on the various special fields which have appeared since those older works were written. Secondly, it is decidedly superior to its older rivals in external respects. In typography and general appearance it is all that could be desired—contrasting agreeably with the book of Clodd, in particular. The illustrations are profuse and excellent. This is a matter of no small importance in a book on such a subject.

No one man could possibly have first-hand knowledge of all the fields covered by the book. In the nature of things its author would have to depend on the work of specialists in many, if not most, of the departments of his investigation. We may, however, fairly expect of him, first, that he should show good scholarly instinct and judgment in selecting his authorities and handling their data; secondly, that he should be provided with the linguistic equipment which ought to be regarded as the ordinary tools of the trade; and, thirdly, that he should be careful and accurate in his statements.

It seems to the reviewer (who, of course, professes as little first-hand knowledge of most of the fields as the author) that Mr. Mason has chosen his authorities well, generally speaking; and he surely seems to have done a large amount of work in gathering materials. His Bibliography could be enlarged (and it could be